Overworking of Labourers in I.T./Bio-technology Sectors

1059. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the labour employed in the Information Technology/Bio-technology sectors are over worked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are no requirements and timings for the employees working therein; and

(d) if so, whether Government would issue necessary directions stipulating working conditions for labourers working in Information Technology/Bio-technology sectors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) The provisions under the Factories Act, 1948 concerning hours of work under Chapter VI are applicable to the workers working in Information Technology and Bio-technology Sectors. The benefits of these provisions prescribing weekly hours, weekly holidays, daily hours, intervals for rest, spread over, prohibition of overlapping shifts and payment of extra wages for overtime are available to labourers working in Information Technology/Bio-technology Sectors.

Exemption to Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation from EPF/PF Act

1060. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre to exempt Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation from the purview of EPF and PF Act, 1952, since the handloom weavers have been covered under the Contributory Thrift Fund Scheme, 1981, where the weavers get the same benefits, except pension; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Karnataka has recommended the exemption sought by M/s Karnataka Handloom Development

Corporation under Sub-Section 2, of Section 16 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. The Central Government has yet to take a decision in the matter.

Task force on employment opportunities

1061. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the report of the Task Force on the employment opportunities setup by the Planning Commission including the macro-economic and sectorial policies suggested by the Task Force to facilitate employment generation in the country;

(b) the details of the recommendations as made by the Task Force and the recommendations as accepted by Government; and

(c) by when the recommendations as accepted by Government are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission set up a Task Force on Employment Opportunities under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Ahluwalia. The Report of the Task Force was received in July 2001, and a copy was placed in Parliament Library. The recommendations of this Task Force were considered by a Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan Period under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The recommendations of this Group were included in the Tenth Plan. A copy each of the Report of the Special Group, and the Tenth Plan Document, were placed in Parliament Library.

Funds for NER

1062. SHRI DWIJENDRANATH SHARMAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted to Assam and other States of NER for development of rural, hilly, backward and adivasi areas during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have increased the annual plan outlay of NER for the year 2002-03 as compared to the previous year;